

WorkFirst Community Jobs

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What is Community Jobs?

Community Jobs is a program within WorkFirst that assists parents with multiple barriers to employment. Since 1998, adults in every county in Washington have gained valuable work experience, increased self-confidence, marketable skills, and an avenue to permanent, unsubsidized employment. At the same time, their work has benefited the local community.

The Department of Community, Trade and Economic Development administers the Community Jobs Program through contracts with 16 community-based organizations and two tribes that provide direct services to families. Contractors develop job opportunities and employ parents 20 hours per week in temporary paid positions such as translators, teacher aides, office staff, and drivers. They provide intensive case management to eliminate barriers to permanent employment. Local community providers assist parents with ready access to basic education and vocational training. Follow up parent and employer surveys help guarantee meaningful individualized service.

What is Career Jump?

Career Jump is an expansion of Community Jobs that includes private sector placement options to support the career interests of WorkFirst parents. Career Jump builds upon the proven success of Community Jobs and offers more worksite opportunities for the hard-to-employ population. The design of the program includes shorter enrollment, built-in career ladder tracks, higher wages, benefits, and focused training and retention services, as well as the opportunity for skill development and growth in a work setting.

Who does Community Jobs serve?

Community Jobs parents have an average of eight barriers to employment not including transportation and childcare. Examples of barriers include lack of work experience, lack of a high school diploma or GED, being a victim of domestic violence, identified mental health issues that warrant further assessment or treatment, or long-term WorkFirst sanction.



- Community Jobs serves approximately 2,500 parents each year and more than 13,500 to date.
- An average of 60 percent of those in Community Jobs successfully obtain unsubsidized employment at the completion of the program.
- “Washington state’s Community Jobs program has improved the lives of thousands of WorkFirst participants who have the most obstacles to overcome. Our WorkFirst long-term study has shown that Community Jobs has provided valuable work experience, employment and significant income increases for these individuals.” (Governor Gary Locke)

Program contact:

Diane Klontz
(360) 725-4142
dianek@cted.wa.gov

For more information about the

WorkFirst program, visit

www.workfirst.wa.gov

**A Job,
A Better Job,
A Better Life**

